

Whalley Range  
Manchester  
April 16<sup>th</sup> 1887

My dear Sir,

I send you a Prospectus of  
the Spencer Society, and you will  
see from the names on the Council  
that we mean mischief.

I believe that our objects so nearly  
coincide with your own and with must  
so largely your own views that I feel  
sure we shall have your full ap-  
probation of the scheme and I hope  
your assistance also, for I confess  
that it was by the beauty of your  
own reprints I was tempted to get  
up the Society feeling that by such  
a Society only could any compre-  
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fully carried out. We have  
nearly a hundred members  
already and our full list of two  
hundred I doubt not will soon  
be completed. With £420 per  
annum of fixed income we can  
surely do something handsome.  
I have been conversing with my col-  
-leagues of the Council this morn-  
-ing and suggesting whether it  
would not be possible to assist  
you in some of your own objects.  
Now you have commenced a  
new series (the Brown). Could  
you not inform me what works  
you contemplate producing under  
this series and print 200  
copies of them instead of 50  
to be distributed to our Members  
of course they would be able to



appear as notes of the Spencer  
Society. This would give you  
much greater scope than your  
present system does. In any  
case it is desirable we should  
know something of what you have  
in contemplation, so that we may  
not both occupy the same ground.  
Nevertheless, I think we could  
work best together. You could  
possibly undertake larger notes  
with us than are contained in  
your present series.

Have you a copy of your Reprints  
of Barnfield to spare? I want  
one.

I have received the second part  
of England's Pastimes. I  
suppose another part is now  
due on the Lyric series  
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how I stand with you.

What is the next reprint in your  
Brown Series? Would it not be  
best after the next number  
to merge your Brown reprints in  
the Spencer Series and consult  
with us what should be pro-  
duced?

Yours very truly  
John Leigh

J. A. Collier Esq

P.S. I have two houses  
one at Whalley Range

the other at 27 Brompton Street.  
One is my West end house  
the other my East end,  
so that either address will do.



# The Spenser Society.

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## COUNCIL.

JAMES CROSSLEY, Esq., F.S.A.

THOMAS JONES, Esq., B.A., F.S.A.

REV. THOMAS CORSER, M.A., F.S.A.

G. W. NAPIER, Esq., *Treasurer.*

JOHN LEIGH, Esq., *Hon. Secretary.*



FEW gentlemen of literary tastes are desirous to form a Society for reprinting the rarer poetical literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. As, however, their wish is to reprint the works of each author in as complete a form as possible, they would not hesitate, in many instances, to include his prose writings also.

The Early English Text Society, whose operations have been eminently successful, is engaged in producing a series of works embodying the literature of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Many of the poetical works of the succeeding two centuries, the sixteenth and seventeenth, have become as rare as those of an earlier period ; and though possessing, many of them, the highest merit and interest, and, from the circumstance of the language in the two centuries referred to having been fully formed, as easily readable as more modern productions, yet have they become quite unattainable for private libraries,—some existing as unique copies only, and others so scarce as to be purchasable only at very extravagant prices.



Mr. John Payne Collier has for some time past been issuing a limited number of reprints, chiefly of the seventeenth century, the typography and paper of which can scarcely be excelled; and he has proved, by the small number of copies issued, and the very moderate price charged, that even so small a number as fifty copies of a work may be reprinted at comparatively a very trifling expense.

It is proposed to produce the reprints in a handsome form, adopting either similar type and paper to those of Mr. Collier's reprints, or the equally beautiful type and paper of the late Mr. Pickering's large-paper impressions of some of the early dramatists.

Among the earliest issues of the Society will be the works of John Heywood, several pieces by John Taylor the water poet (not contained in the printed folio), and some rare tracts by Robert Green.

The Society will be limited to two hundred members, paying an annual subscription of two guineas each, and under no circumstances will a greater number than two hundred copies of any work be printed.

Subscribers' names received by THOMAS JONES, esq., B.A., Chetham Library; G. W. NAPIER, esq., Chapel Walks, Manchester; and JOHN LEIGH, esq., 27, Byrom Street, Manchester. Subscriptions due 1st January in each year.









AP 16  
MANCHESTER  
1857.

John Jayne Esq  
Guilford Road  
Berbshire.

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